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Memorandum

To: ENRP Co-Chairs Sean O'Connor & Barry Weinstein, MD

From: Transportation Subcommittee Chair Hal Morse

Re: June & July 2003 meetings

Date: July 25, 2003

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Transportation Subcommittee met June 20 and July 18, 2003 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott. Present for the June meeting were subcommittee members Morse, Ferraro, Lehman, Meckler (proxy), and Wendel, as well as additional representatives from the NFTA and GBNRTC. Present for the July meeting were subcommittee members Morse, Burmaster, Ferraro, Meckler (proxy), and Wendel, as well as additional representatives from NFTA and GBNRTC.

Job Development & Transportation

Following receiving approval late last year from the ENRP to pursue a job development and transportation project to enhance the use of public transportation to link people to jobs, the GBNRTC and NFTA have agreed to shepherd this project through our subcommittee. A Proposed Study Work Task was developed and it was agreed that we should choose a pilot site in each county for a short-term pilot. Maps detailing concentrations of potential users have been developed, and based on these and other research a list of potential pilot sites was formulated. The Subcommittee is especially looking for sites where employees work the afternoon and night shifts, or staggered shifts.

In Niagara County, the preliminary choice is the casino-airport-Vantage Park-Summit Park Mall corridor, while in Erie the preliminary choice is the airport-Walden Avenue corridor. Further research is being done to confirm these choices. The Subcommittee should be ready to present these sites for confirmation by the September general meeting.

The long-term goal of this project is to have a working construct to demonstrate the ability to provide public transportation solutions for less traditional job access. This tool could become a part of the economic development process by linking to existing efforts such as WIB training and IDAs. As such, the Subcommittee will work to bring this effort in to the Framework for Regional Growth, the Regional Economic Development

Strategy, and the Economic Development Working Group (One Stop Shop Group).

Federal Transportation Legislation

The federal TEA 21 transportation legislation is up for reauthorization this year. Growth states have been banding together to try to rewrite the funding formula to benefit them, which could hurt states like New York. The package is likely to be \$310 billion over six years; the question is how it will be allocated. At some point ENRP and the two legislatures should take a position on this, but not quite yet. The Subcommittee will keep the membership informed.

Other Topics

Other topics discussed included Rochester's upcoming cross lake ferry and the similar project that has yet to be initiated in Porter, the tourist rail train from Lockport to Brockport that is currently down but perhaps may soon start up again, and the Niagara Falls intermodal terminal. The Subcommittee will also have an update on the Niagara Falls International Airport at our next meeting.